



Brownfields 2003 Grant Fact Sheet

Washtenaw County, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Washtenaw County was selected to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. Washtenaw County, located in southeast Michigan, spans 720 square miles and includes the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. The county's population has grown 14 percent since 1990, with an additional 34 percent growth projected by 2030. Once dominated by agriculture, the county is struggling to balance the growth of urban areas with the preservation of natural areas and rural character. Twenty-two of the county's 28 communities have populations under 10,000. The county will focus on the higher-poverty areas in Ypsilanti (26 percent poverty rate), Ann Arbor, Milan, Saline, and Whitmore Lake. The redevelopment of the county's many abandoned or obsolete industrial facilities, which once supported the automobile industry, presents



Revolving Loan Fund Grant



\$1,400,000 for hazardous substances
\$100,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Washtenaw County for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the county will provide loans and subgrants to conduct cleanup activities within the 28 cities, villages, and townships that comprise the county. The county plans to use the grant to support sustainable reuse, mixed-use developments that attract new jobs, affordable housing, green-building opportunities, alternative transportation modes and walkways, and greenspace. Petroleum funding will be used for removal and cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Washtenaw County, MI
734-994-2435

Prior to receipt of these funds in fiscal year 2003, Washtenaw County has received brownfields funding for assessment grants.

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

opportunities for affordable housing, improved water quality and ecological habitats, and restoration of the county's tax base.